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**Hurricane Harvey left Houston residents breathing benzene, Red Green and Blue, 9/18/17**

<http://redgreenandblue.org/2017/09/18/hurricane-harvey-left-houston-residents-breathing-benzene/>

As a longtime resident of Manchester, Guadalupe Hernandez is used to the chemical smells that waft through his southeast Houston, Texas neighborhood, a low-income, predominantly Hispanic community near a Valero Energy refinery. But when Hurricane Harvey blew in the weekend of Aug. 26, the stench became noticeably stronger for about five hours, a scent like “glue or boiled eggs,” he said. The Environmental Protection Agency has assured the public they looked into complaints in the area a week after the storm hit, and spent several days taking air pollution measurements with a mobile laboratory. The agency didn’t release any specifics, but said concentrations of several toxic chemicals, including the carcinogen benzene, met Texas health guidelines.

**Why Hurricanes Harvey and Irma won't lead to action on climate change, San Fran Chron, 9/17/17**

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/Why-Hurricanes-Harvey-and-Irma-won-t-lead-to-12204964.php>

It’s not easy to hold the nation’s attention for long, but three solid weeks of record-smashing hurricanes directly affecting multiple states and at least 20 million people will do it. Clustered disasters hold our attention in ways that singular events cannot – they open our minds to the possibility that these aren’t just accidents or natural phenomena to be painfully endured. As such, they can provoke debates over the larger “disaster lessons” we should be learning. And I would argue the combination of Harvey and Irma has triggered such a moment.

**As a result of Hurricane Harvey, 600 more Texas prisoners getting AC, KVUE, 9/17/17**

<http://www.kvue.com/news/local/texas-news/as-a-result-of-hurricane-harvey-600-more-texas-prisoners-getting-ac/475722932>

Thanks to Hurricane Harvey, about 600 more Texas prisoners are set to get a break from the sweltering Texas heat. The inmates had been evacuated from the flood-prone Stringfellow Unit ahead of the storm. But Texas prison officials, scrambling to get the inmates to safety, sent them to the notoriously hot (though dry) Wallace Pack Unit in Navasota.

**New Insurance Law Takes Effect September 1, Just in Time for Harvey Aftermath, SM Corridor News, 9/18/17**

<https://smcorridornews.com/new-insurance-law-takes-effect-september-1-just-in-time-for-harvey-aftermath/>

In the days since Hurricane Harvey hit, social media posts regarding insurance claims and the recently passed House Bill 1774 have spread like wildfire. Plaintiff’s lawyers paint it as an attempt to protect the powerful insurance companies, while insurance companies portray it as a deterrent to rampant insurance fraud. Either way, many are left wondering if and how they will be affected.

**Texas Cities Struggle to House Thousands Displaced by Hurricane Harvey, Wall Street Journal,**

**9/17/17**

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/texas-cities-face-housing-crunch-in-the-wake-of-hurricane-harvey-1505675501>

Lillian Godfrey has been sleeping on an air mattress on the floor of her friend's shuttered night club, alongside her daughter and two pool tables, ever since floodwaters swept into her home here last month. Ms. Godfrey, 74 years old, has a federal voucher for a hotel, but hasn't had any luck finding a room nearby.

**Is San Antonio Ready For A Harvey-Strength Storm? KSTX, 9/18/17**

<http://tpr.org/post/san-antonio-ready-harvey-strength-storm#stream/0>

San Antonio was spared the full force of Hurricane Harvey, leading locals to ask the question: What would have happened if the storm hit closer to home? The Texas Hill Country is already referred to as "Flash Flood Alley," prone to retaining water after excessive rain.

**Crossroads homes built to withstand Hurricane Harvey, Victoria Advocate, 9/18/17**

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2017/sep/17/crossroads-homes-built-to-withstand-hurricane-harv/>

The day after Hurricane Harvey hit, a feeling of relief filled Chris Kovarek's mind when she and her husband, Mike Kovarek, saw a video from their friend showing their 1,500-square-foot house unscathed. "I was amazed," she said. "I was scared to death. What in the world were we going to drive up to? Seeing that video, it seriously looked liked any day at our house."

**Analysis: In Harvey, Abbott finds focus in the eye of the storm, Texas Tribune, 9/18/17**

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/09/18/analysis-harvey-abbott-finds-focus-eye-storm/>

You don't want to call a major disaster a political boon, but Hurricane Harvey blew away some of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's distractions while coinciding with a reboot in the office he wants to hold for another four years.

The storm is now the central concern of what has often been an unfocused administration. It also shifted the spotlight away from the most prominent alternative to his leadership — Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, a conservative favorite of some of the GOP's most outspoken activists.

**Harvey oddities: The weird part of the storm, Victoria Advocate, 9/18/17**

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2017/sep/17/harvey-oddities-the-weird-part-to-the-storm/>

One day in August, Kathy Brooks forgot to bring in her laundry basket from outside her Edna home after putting clothes to dry on her clothesline. She didn't think about the ordinary household item again until right after Hurricane Harvey hit Jackson County on Aug. 25, when she looked out her bathroom window before heading to work in Ganado.